

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the foregoing discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 11-20 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-5, 7, and 9-10 are canceled without prejudice, Claim 11 is amended, and Claims 16-20 are added by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-5, 7, and 9-15 were objected to; Claims 1-5, 7, and 9-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101; Claims 1, 7, 9, and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; Claims 1 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Helgeson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,643,652, herein “Helgeson”) in view of Gershman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,199,099, herein “Gershman”); Claims 2-5, 7, and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Helgeson and Gershman in view of Conner et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,718,515, herein “Conner”); and Claims 11-15 were indicated as allowable if amended to overcome the outstanding rejections.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter and further for the suggested amendments noted in the last paragraph on page 11 and first paragraph on page 12 of the outstanding Office Action. In view of those indications, independent Claim 11 has been amended as suggested by the outstanding Office Action, rejected Claims 1-5, 7, and 9-10 have been canceled without prejudice, and new Claims 16-20 have been added and these claims are method claims and recite the allowed features of Claims 11-15. No new matter has been added. Thus, it is believed that the outstanding rejections are moot and the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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